

On page 19, at the bottom of the page, please insert the following paragraph:

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority documents 199 20 322.9 filed 03 May 1999, 199 27 962.4 filed 18 June 1999 and International priority document PCT/EP00/03664 filed 22 April 2000.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1 - 27, and replace them with the attached claims 28 - 49.

**REMARKS**

Claims 28 - 49 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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